



ABOUT THE MOONLIGHT LOOP

What is the Moonlight Loop?

The Moonlight Loop is an evening bicycle ride of 19 miles around scenic Columbus, Indiana, to benefit Columbus Animal Care Services (CACS). The ride will take place on Saturday, August, 16, 2014. Modeled after the Indy N.I.T.E. ride in Indianapolis, Indiana, the ride will make a loop around the City of Columbus, passing several architectural gems along the way.

Who organizes the ride, who benefits, and why?

The Moonlight Loop is a fundraiser for Columbus Animal Care Services (CACS), which is a department of the City of Columbus. We are located at 2730 Arnold Street. The agency provides shelter services as well as field services. All Moonlight Loop funds generated through this event will be used to support the agency's **Adoption Medical Fund** which covers spaying and neutering costs, pet care services, veterinarian treatment for pets housed at the facility, transport requirements and pet food as well as promotion of adoptions and educational programs.

While we are operated by both City tax dollars and through fines/fees and monetary donations, the general operating budget only covers basic services including wages, utilities and maintenance of both the facility and vehicles. The Adoption/Medical fund does not use tax dollars and is supported by fines, fees and monetary donations. ***Our budget relies heavily on monetary and in-kind donations by the public that allows us to stretch our dollars further than otherwise possible.***

Route

Unlike many bicycle rides, there is only one route on this ride. All cyclists will travel together as a group. The ride begins and ends in front of the Bartholomew County Public Library/Visitor's Center plaza, with a starting time of 9 p.m.

The route first heads east and then north to the one and only scheduled SAG stop at the Columbus Learning Center for refreshments and restrooms. From there, the ride continues west and south and includes a loop through Mill Race Park as well as a trip over the Robert Stewart Bridge for a spectacular view of downtown Columbus on its way back to the Library.

Safety

Safety for all participants is a prime objective!! At 9.p.m., as the ride begins, riders in the front will follow (be led by) a Columbus Police Department (CPD) squad car. Rear riders will be followed by a vehicle using its flashers. Along the way, CPD or Sheriff Reserve Department personnel will be assisting with traffic at all major intersections and volunteers will be at smaller intersections along the way. It is important to note that while everyone's individual speed and skill level will vary, this is an organized ride and not a race, and therefore, riders are asked to stay together as much as possible throughout the ride.

The route has been designed with the assistance of cyclists, to allow the rider to see as much as possible of the city via the less-traveled roads while achieving maximum availability of lighting along the way. The route has been examined by area law enforcement staff to insure the Moonlight Loop Ride has ample volunteers and security staff along the way.

NOTE: There will not be a road/lane closing so your vigilance is imperative. Bicyclists are required to wear a helmet and have both a headlight and taillight to participate in the ride. A small number of headlights, taillights and helmets MAY be available for purchase at the ride, through our bike vendors but please come prepared.

Due to the inherent danger of riding at night, **individual riders must be at least 16 years old.**

Younger riders are more than welcome to ride while attached to a person 16 or older via a tandem bicycle, or bicycle attachment.

Be safe-be seen!! It is suggested that riders wear light and/or reflective clothing to assist with visibility. Riders are encouraged to obey all traffic laws and regulations. *Also, very important to note, the use of headphones, earbuds, etc. is prohibited.*

While this is a benefit for the animals, in order to keep both pets and humans safe, animals should not accompany the rider unless secure safely in a bicycle wagon or trailer.

Light Up Your Bike, Light Up The Night Contest

To assist us with being “seen”, and to simply have fun, a prize will be offered for the most well-lit bicycle (and rider). Feel free to go crazy with your lights on your bikes... just remember not to blind yourself with your glow! Contest will be held at 8:30pm, prior to ride start.

Registration

The minimum cost of the Moonlight Loop is \$25 per rider. After August 1, the ride price will go up to \$30 per rider. Individuals who pre-register will receive an official inaugural ride glow-in-the-dark t-shirt upon checking in for the ride. The registration fee includes the T-shirt (for pre-registered riders), SAG wagons, and SAG station refreshments at the mid-point of the ride. Additional T-shirts may be pre-ordered. Only a limited number of shirts will be available on ride-day.

Riders may register online at www.columbus.in.gov/animal-care-services, www.signmeupsports.com, by printing off a paper registration online at www.columbus.in.gov/animal-care-services or by requesting one by an email to: nbirdwell-goodin@columbus.in.gov

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email, with additional information on accommodations and reminders.

Location

The Moonlight Loop will be held in Columbus, Indiana , which is approximately an hour drive south of Indianapolis and 90 minutes north of Louisville, Kentucky off of I 65. The ride will start and end in downtown Columbus, at 536 Fifth Street, which is directly adjacent to the Columbus Visitor's Center.

Known as the "Athens of the Prairie" for its modern architecture, out of town riders are encouraged to spend the weekend and enjoy the local architectural tours! (*Reservations are recommended*).

Dining Options

If you are planning to come early, please plan to visit some of the downtown's many dining establishments. Within easy walking distance of the event, there are at least 15 different restaurants to enjoy.

Parking

There are over 5000 parking spaces in the downtown area, including parking garages. All are within easy walking distance of the event start/end point.

Packet Pick-Up

Pre-ride packet pick up will be located at the library plaza. Packet Pick Up will begin at 7pm.

Overnight Accommodations

There are numerous options for those interested in staying overnight on Saturday. A list of accommodations will be sent via email with your registration confirmation. If you do not receive an email confirmation within 48 hours of your registration, please contact moonlightloop@columbus.in.gov.

Emergencies

First-Aid will be available at the SAG station at the mid-way point and roving radio equipped SAG wagons will also be patrolling the routes for riders with biking issues. Our emergency personnel EMT's will be on-alert for any emergencies and will be placed within minutes of the route.

Important Notice

Please remember that this route is NOT a closed route and as such we ask each rider to ride responsibly and be aware of their surroundings. Please be aware of traffic waiting to pass or for possible oncoming traffic while climbing hills (very small hills, if any), and going around curves. While we will have volunteers and security personnel in as many locations as possible, for your own safety as well as the safety of other cyclists, please keep your eyes on traffic and be ready to stop and yield the right of way if an automobile does not appear to be stopping or slowing. Also, please stay to the right unless to pass another cyclist. Don't let an accident ruin your ride.

Volunteers Needed

If you are traveling with folks who are not riders, or just want to come out and help with the cause, we can definitely use your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please call 812-376-2505 or email: moonlightloop@columbus.in.gov. We welcome individuals' help as well as group help throughout the ride. Volunteers will receive a free volunteer t-shirt and our unending gratitude! Volunteers at the SAG/food stop need to be 13 to volunteer with a parent or guardian. On the route, Volunteers need to be 16 and with a parent/guardian.

Additional Questions

Still have a question about the ride? If so, please feel free to call 812-376-2505 from 10am to 5pm eastern standard time or email at moonlightloop@columbus.in.gov. You are welcome to leave a message on the phone if calling after hours and someone will call you back the next business day.